

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 15-16 and 21 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) In a system including a plurality of primary storage subsystems and a plurality of secondary storage subsystems that are connected to each other via a network, a method for remotely copying data from each of a plurality of primary volumes to a corresponding secondary volume [[from]] of a plurality of secondary volumes, wherein the primary volumes are presented constituted by the primary storage subsystems, and wherein the secondary volumes are presented constituted by the secondary storage subsystems, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, remote copy requests each of which is associated with a timestamp from at least each one of the plurality of primary storage subsystems;

receiving periodically, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, synchronizing requests each of which is associated with a timestamp and a primary storage ID of a primary storage subsystem, which sends a respective synchronizing request, from a corresponding said each one of the primary storage subsystems respectively;

determining, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, a first time as a first time parameter based on [[the]] timestamps included in the synchronizing requests; and

determining, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, which remote copy requests to process based on the first time parameter, primary storage IDs and timestamps associated with the remote copy requests, thereby maintain data I/O consistency among said storage subsystems.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

performing, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, write processing in accordance with remote copy requests that are associated with timestamps indicating [[a]] an earlier time than the first time.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

managing, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, a second time parameter for each of the primary storage subsystems; and

updating corresponding second time parameters at each of the secondary storage subsystems in response to whether timestamps associated with the synchronizing requests indicate a later time than the corresponding second time parameters of the second storage subsystems.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the first time is the earliest time indicated by the second time parameters.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining a second time with which the secondary storage subsystems are synchronized based on the first time determined by the secondary storage subsystems.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

changing, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, the first time parameter to the second time parameter.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the second time is determined when the remote copying is suspended.

8. (Currently Amended) A software residing in a computer readable storage medium for remotely copying data from each of a plurality of primary volumes to a corresponding secondary volume [[from]] of a plurality of secondary volumes implemented in a data storage system that includes a plurality of primary storage subsystems and a plurality of secondary storage subsystems that are connected to each other via a network, wherein the primary volumes are presented constituted by the primary storage subsystems, and wherein the secondary volumes are presented constituted by the secondary storage subsystems, the software comprising:

a module for receiving, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, remote copy requests which are each associated with a timestamp from at least each one of the plurality of primary storage subsystems respectively;

a module for receiving periodically, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, synchronizing requests each of which is associated with a timestamp and a primary storage ID of a primary storage subsystem, which sends a respective

synchronizing request, from a corresponding said each one of the primary storage subsystems respectively;

 a module for determining, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, a first timer as a first time parameter based on the timestamps included in the [[sync]] synchronizing requests; and

 a module for determining, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, which remote copy requests to process based on the first time parameter, primary storage IDs and timestamps associated with the remote copy requests, thereby maintain data I/O consistency among said storage subsystems.

9. (Previously Presented) The software of claim 8, further comprising:

 a module for write processing, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, in accordance with remote copy requests that are associated with timestamps indicating a earlier time than the first time.

10. (Previously Presented) The software of claim 8, further comprising:

 a module for managing, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, a second time parameter for each of the primary storage subsystems, and for updating the corresponding second time parameters in response to timestamps associated with the synchronizing requests that indicate a later time than corresponding second time parameters of the second storage subsystems.

11. (Previously Presented) The software of claim 10, wherein the first time is the earliest time indicated by the second time parameters.

12. (Previously Presented) The software of claim 8, further comprising:

 a module for determining a second time with which the secondary storage subsystems are synchronized based on the first time determined by the secondary storage subsystems.

13. (Previously Presented) The software of claim 12, wherein said determining module changes, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, the first time parameter to the second time.

14. (Previously Presented) The software of claim 12, wherein said determining module determines the second time when the remote copying is suspended.
15. (Currently Amended) In a system for remotely copying data from each of a plurality of primary volumes to a corresponding secondary volume [[from]] of a plurality of secondary volumes implemented in a data storage system that includes a plurality of host computers, a plurality of primary storage subsystems and a plurality of secondary storage subsystems, all connected to each other via a network, wherein the primary volumes are presented constituted by the primary storage subsystems, and wherein the secondary volumes are presented constituted by the secondary storage subsystems, each of the host computers implementing said system that comprises:
 - means for receiving, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, remote copy requests which are each associated with a timestamp from at least each one of the plurality of primary storage subsystems;
 - means for receiving periodically, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, synchronizing requests each of which is associated with a timestamp and a primary storage ID of a primary storage subsystem, which sends a respective synchronizing request, from a corresponding said each one of the primary storage subsystems respectively;
 - means for determining, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, a first timer as a first time parameter based on the timestamps included in the synchronizing requests; and
 - means for determining, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, which remote copy requests to process based on the first time parameter, primary storage IDs and timestamps associated with the remote copy requests, thereby maintain data I/O consistency among said storage subsystems.
16. (Currently Amended) In a system according to claim 15, further comprising:
 - means for write processing, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, in accordance with remote copy requests that are associated with timestamps indicating [[a]] an earlier time than the first time.
17. (Previously Presented) In a system according to claim 15, further comprising:
 - means for managing, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, a second

time parameter for each of the primary storage subsystems, and for updating the corresponding second time parameters in response to timestamps associated with the synchronizing requests that indicate a later time than corresponding second time parameters of the second storage subsystems.

18. (Original) In a system according to claim 17, wherein the first time is the earliest time indicated by the second time parameters.

19. (Original) In a software system according to claim 15, further comprising:
means for determining a second time with which the secondary storage subsystems are synchronized based on the first time determined by the secondary storage subsystems.

20. (Original) In a system according to claim 19, wherein said determining means is further formed to change, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, the first time parameter to the second time.

21. (Currently Amended) In a system according to claim 19, wherein said determining means is further formed to determine[[d]] the second time when the remote copying is suspended.